

MOSAIC COMMUNITY CHURCH CORE VALUES



WE ARE SPARTANS

Why a Spartan for a icon or logo?

According the Greek historians, Spartans didn't believe in defensive walls. Rather when facing an enemy or anyone who questioned why they lacked fortification, they simply replied, while pointing to the Spartan soldiers, "These are Sparta's walls." When asked how far do your walls reach, they would simply reply by pointing out their spear and saying, "as far as this can reach".

This flies in the face of common sense and might even be a bit prideful.

However, I can't help but think of the moment Jesus looks at Peter and in front of all the other disciples makes this statement, "Now I say to you that you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 16:18) It is as if Jesus looked at a human being and said, "The walls and gates of my church shall be flesh and blood not brick and mortar. I will place my spirit in them and they will be my church." That's crazy! Broken repentant sinners have become the walls of Jerusalem. They have become the soldiers of Heaven. Where are the walls of God's Kingdom on earth? They are embodied in His saints! How far does the Church reach? As far as our sword of the spirit can reach!

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INSANITY

I've heard it said countless times that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Then why do we keep doing church the same way and expecting something different to happen to our cities, country, and culture?

Something has to change.

I believe today we are hitting exactly what we're aiming for, growth. I think growing our churches has become more important than seeking revival or global change. I fully understand that more people in church is a good thing, especially if we are seeing people come to Jesus. Still, the statistics don't lie. Our cities crime rates aren't down, our country is more divided then ever, and our culture is enjoying a season of celebrating sin.

Jesus pruned his ministry down to twelve individuals that were willing to die for Him. I'm not sure that there are twelve people in our churches that would do the same today...and that is a problem. We've got to think different how we build disciples as well as what our goals are. I don't have it all figured out and I'm not opposed to growth, but the mission hasn't changed and the bar on discipleship is still high, regardless of how much we lower it's standards for the sake of growth.

It's time for change. It's time to return. We cannot remove the cost of discipleship. It might mean we have to sacrifice growth on the altar, but I think we'll find what's left will radically shift our cities, communities, and culture back to Jesus. At Mosaic, we will always seek God rather than growth. While we do believe that there will be growth in the Kingdom as we seek Him, it is not what we are aiming for. We are aiming for Christ and nothing else. If we become more like Him, our church will be better for it. If we become more like Him, our community will be better for it. If we become more like Him, our world will be better for it.

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CLONES

Year after year, I see young men and women coming out of seminary schools without one ounce of uniqueness and individuality. They are clones of other men echoing the message of other men. In doing so, they've lost what was so special about them and the reason why God sent them into the ministry in the first place.

Why do we do that? What are we so afraid of? We see people so undefined and we have to make them into our image, rather than let the process of personal discipleship of Jesus take place. Most of these people will suffer through years of failure trying to be like other people before they realize who they are. A majority of them will leave the ministry in the first five years.

Discipleship is a process not a formula. We cannot create a better disciple than Jesus, so let's get out of the way. Let's quit acting like a teacher (as if we're smarter than Christ) and start being more of a guide. Let's quit trying to make disciples in our images and guide them on the road to Christ. If we continue to walk for them, we will get more of what we have now, a palsied generation that struggles to understand who Jesus is and how to hear the Holy Spirit. They'll be too busy preaching the next book, copying sermons off the internet, and living too comfortable.

At Mosaic, we celebrate individuality and the uniqueness by which God created us to be. We encourage the process of God in every believer.

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NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED

Brennen Manning, author of "The Ragamuffin Gospel" once said that, "We come as we are, not as we should be, for none of us are as we should be." What powerful words of truth! Nobody's perfect. We say that but I'm not sure we understand that. If it were so, we'd live with a bit more forgiveness and compassion.

I hear people say all the time that they don't go to church because it's full of hypocrites, liars, and fakers. They're right. The church is full of all sorts of people. It's a hospital to the broken, hurting, and dying. However, my hope is that we, as a church, will have the courage to be honest about it.

That's the church I want to attend is the church where transparency and brokenness aren't taboo, but rather encouraged. I want to attend a church that doesn't try to hide its problems, use clever speech to deceive, or feel as if they have to be someone else to just fit in. I want to build a group of believers, really disciples, that crave honesty and truth like water; who see brokenness as an opportunity to display the grace of God and see transparency as liberty. I want to build a church free from false perfection.

This is what we've tried to do with Mosaic Community Church.

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BRIDGES

Why can't we be about the "kingdom of God" rather than our own personal churches, causes, etc.? I know God has given each church a unique vision that needs to be accomplished, but that vision was never intended to isolate us within the walls of our buildings.

Over the past few years God has given me some insight into this idea. It starts with Nehemiah and Ezra. You know the story. Nehemiah is called to re-build the wall in Jerusalem. Ezra is called to re-build the temple in Jerusalem. These were two different men with two different visions...both working to restore the city. At the end of their stories, we find them both standing upon the same platform as revival sweeps the land at what God had accomplished through both of their obedience.

What's changed?

God is still calling men/women. God is still handing out vision and purpose. What if, we embraced the idea that if every church can strive to be obedient to what God has called them to...then maybe...just maybe we can also share the platform one day when revival comes? So maybe the church down the block isn't really competing...but simply just accomplishing another piece to the puzzle that God has given them in the effort to win the city (the one you live in too) for Christ. I believe if we can start to get a vision like that, then it would create value in what other churches do as well...because we would understand that without these other churches, God's ultimate purpose wouldn't be accomplished. Without Nehemiah there is no physical wall. Without Ezra there is no spiritual wall. We need both.

Every church in my city has its place and purpose in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with what God wants to do. Not only do I believe in what God has called me to do, I feel as if part of that DNA (truly kingdom minded) is to help, lift up, support (financially if need be), and pray for every church in my city. Why? Because there is a bigger vision, a bigger cause than just the one that God has called me to. He has called me to be about His will above all things...and I truly believe God wants His churches to succeed in knowing Christ and making Him known.

For me that means helping every church I can accomplish what God has called them to do and not just because I might benefit from helping them. That should never weigh into the equation. Regardless of benefit, to be kingdom minded is to understand that there is a greater picture, a greater narrative happening. It means taking the back seat sometimes in the effort to see God's will accomplished.

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GOD'S VOICE TRUMPS ALL OTHERS

I have found in my life that the voice of men is like a giant drum constantly beating making it's presence known. We can sense the impending judgment, criticism, and general chatter from others. It weighs heavy on me and to many I see and know. I've also have noticed that God's voice tends to approach us more quietly. Like a current just below the surface of the water pulling at us. Most of the time the noise of this world is so loud that we fail to hear the still small voice of God. However, His voice is the only one that counts.

One of my greatest fears is that I will somehow listen too much to the voice of men than the actual voice of God. I think most of us are that way. I wonder how many times we've taken the voice of men, as council, over the will of God?

At Mosaic Community Church, we strive for the voice of God above all other voices. This might seem obvious, but experience has taught me otherwise.

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TECHNOLOGY CANNOT REPLACE THE HOLY SPIRIT

For the record, I love technology. I own a Macbook, iPad, and an iPhone. While I'm not as quick to understand how it all works today, I still can appreciate it and see its value to what it brings to the table. I see technology everywhere in the church. From our media presentation, to lights, to sound, to social networking, and a whole bunch more.

However, if we're not careful we easily substitute this as a replacement for what the Holy Spirit wants to do. Now there is nothing wrong with a powerful light show coupled with a powerful media presentation, but in creating better atmosphere's that produce an emotional response, we are beginning to tread in dangerous waters. We are dangerously close to producing "false fire".

God doesn't need us but He chooses to use us. He doesn't need our lights or our sound to break down the stone heart of a sinner. We would do well to remember that. That doesn't mean Mosaic Community Church won't have lights, sound, or media presentations. What it means is, we will use technology with reverence and respect. It means that we will spend more time on our knees than in a creative meeting. It means that we will give out more physical hugs than Facebook "likes". It means we will rely more on what God can do than what we can do with our own hands and intellect.

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REJECTION

Moses faced rejection, Jesus faced rejection, and there is a good chance that if your going to pursue God in your life, you'll face rejection too. I've spent my fair share being rejected, from teenage life to even now. The one person who hasn't given up on me is Jesus Christ. He has been the most true and trusting friend throughout my entire life, which has caused me to blindly and most loyally follow Him.

Still, I hate rejection. I greatly want to be accepted by others and feel like I belong. Over the years this has caused me to "go with the flow" and overlook areas that I knew were not right. There is an old saying that, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Men do nothing because the need to be accepted by men is greater than the need to be accepted by God...and that isn't right. I'm sure you seen it and maybe even have experienced that yourself.

At Mosaic, however, we pursue acceptance in Christ above all else. Sure, this sounds like something normal and it should be, but often it's a great struggle that so few talk about. The pressure to conform to the majority is so overwhelming that we'll forgo belonging to Christ over trying to be like other churches. That's wrong. God comes first, even when it means we have to go against the status quo.

Matthew 7:14, "But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."

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COMMUNITY

We are social beings. Our culture reveals that with amazing intensity. We often call the church a community of believers, and rightly so. Inside every community of people there are good things and bad things. Seriously, you have a family? Most of us even have family that isn't even all that fun to hang around with. Still the house of God should be different, but it's not. While I can't say that, when you come to Mosaic Community Church you will be surrounded by heavenly host greeting you in to the most surreal place where peace and happiness float around like clouds, I can say that, you will be greeted by people who are trying, struggling really, to be honest and transparent about their brokenness. They are people who've found each other in their pursuit for true Christianity. They aren't perfect, but that is exactly what binds them together.

In this pursuit, we have found each other, and we are looking for more; more imperfect people to join us in our journey heavenward. I'm not sure if that interest you, but to me it's home. It's where I belong.

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LEADERSHIP/TRANSPARENCY

They say everything rises and falls on leadership. I agree. How we lead is important. At Mosaic, our view of leadership revolves around a foundation of integrity, transparency, and simplicity. We believe, as we have seen in every church, that "as the pastor goes, so goes the church". We realize that those that attend Mosaic will always be limited by its leadership, this is why we make prayer and they study of God's Word the foundation of everything we do. If we, as the leaders, are not growing and praying in the Lord, how can we grow others? We must lead by example in this area.

Jesus didn't hide anything from his friends...and (pastors, deacons, elders, leaders) He won't let us hide anything from them as well. Sure, you might get away with it for a season, but eventually it'll come crashing down. God is patient. God doesn't desire for us to be humiliated. He desires that we repent and be reconciled. He desires that we be more like Christ, open, honest, and truthful about everything.

The Church needs more transparency. I don't know anyone who would say different. We need the same thing we've always needed...Jesus. He showed us how to lead. He revealed everything to us. He treated us as friends. I can't imagine a better leadership model. Sure, some might leave our churches because of our transparency...they left Jesus. Should we be offended because they see our faults? Integrity is more than just telling the truth...it's living in the truth...for good or bad.

I am who I am. I am trying to live in the light. Sometimes that means revealing things about myself, or my ministry, that I might not like. However, I am more scared to HIDE things than I am to reveal things. I am compelled by love that if Jesus can reveal EVERYTHING than so can I.